

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 12376 281237Z
ACTION HA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 /003 W
-----088059 281239Z /17
O 281105Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IHMEDATE 3810

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FOR HA ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: DISSENSION IN JVA RANKS

1. ELEVEN OF THE 16 AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE JOINT VOLUNTARY AGENCY STAFF IN BANGKOK SENT A TELEGRAM APRIL 28 TO IRC DIRECTOR CAREL STERNBERG. THE OPENING LINES READ THAT THE "MAJORITY OF THESE JVA SIGNATORIES PREPARING TO RESIGN OVER PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS" AND THE "REMAINDER DEEPLY CONCERNED AND AGREE ESSENTIAL YOU SEND NEGOTIATOR."

2. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE TURMOIL AMONG THE JVA STAFF SINCE PERSONNEL REDUCTIONS BEGAN TAKING PLACE FEBRUARY 1. THREE EMPLOYEES WERE LET GO AT THAT TIME. UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE STATUS OF A NEW PROGRAM AND WHETHER FOUR OTHERS DESIGNATED FOR REDUCTION-IN-FORCE APRIL 30 WOULD OR WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE WORKING CONTRIBUTED TO THE STATE OF UNEASE. PART OF THE PROBLEM IS DRAGO'S RECRUITMENT OF TWO PERSONNEL FROM THE UNITED STATES FOR PROGRAM-ESSENTIAL POSTIONS THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE STAFF EITHER WERE NOT
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QUALIFIED FOR OR REFUSED TO VOLUNTEER TO ACCEPT.

3. IN ANALYZING THE LIST OF THE 11 SIGNATORIES, THE PRINCIPAL SIGNER HAS INDICATED THAT SHE WANTS TO LEAVE IN JUNE ANYWAY. ANOTHER TWO HAVE REPEATEDLY THREATENED TO RESIGN UNLESS THEY BE GIVEN MAJOR POSITIONS FOR WHICH THEY ARE NOT QUALIFIED. FOUR OF THE SIGNATORIES WERE SCHEDULED

FOR RELEASE APRIL 30, BUT WERE AT LEAST TEMPORARILY
SAVED BY THE IMMINENT ADVENT OF THE NEW PROGRAM.

4. WHILE DRAGO DOES NOT HAVE A GREGARIOUS PERSONALITY,
AND COULD IMPROVE HIS INTERCHANGE WITH HIS STAFF, HE IS
A MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATOR THAN IS PREDECESSOR
IN THE JVA REPRESENTATIVE ROLE. HE IDENTIFIES MOST
PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY ARISE, HAS AN EXCELLENT SENSE OF
PRIORITIES, IS EXTREMELY WELL ORGANIZED, AND IS ABLE
TT MEET EMBASSY DEADLINES AND REQUESTS FOR ACTION AND
INFORMATION.

5. THE REFUGEE COORDINATOR BELIEVES THAT IRC NEW YORK
SHOULD BACK UP DRAGO IN HIS CURRENT CONFRONTATION WITH
HIS STAFF, AND THAT IT NOT SEND A "NEGOTIATOR" TO
BANGKOK. IN HIS JUDGMENT, A KNUCKLING UNDER TO THE
DEMANDS OF THE DISSIDENTS WOULD LEAD TO PROLONGED
CHAOS IN THE JVA OFFICE. WE CAN MEET PROGRAM OBJECTIVES
IF NO MORE THAN THE EXPECTED FEW ACTUALLY RESIGN, AND
THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE JVA OFFICE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY
IMPROVED BY THEIR DEPARTURE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL, MANAGEMENT, REFUGEES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO12376
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780182-0132
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978047/aaaaaaffa.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4ba761b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3006575
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISSENSION IN JVA RANKS
TAGS: SREF, APER, IRC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbsc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4ba761b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014